Revival of Braithwaite and Company Ltd.

1428. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises has approved revival plan of the Braithwaite and Company Ltd.;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the time bound programme for implementing the revival plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government are yet to approve the recommendations of Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises which are being processed for the same.

Closure of units of Burn Standard Company Ltd.

1429. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of the Burn Standard Company Ltd. had recommended closure of units of Burnpur and Howrah in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto and their plan to tide over the working capital crunch and other problems faced by the company to facilitate their early revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN

DEV): (a) and (b) The Board of Directors of Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL) recommended closure of only Burnpur Works (BW).

The Burnpur Works of BSCL has been incurring huge losses for the last four years and the Corporate Management of BSCL had to extend financial support to the tune of Rs. 21.78 crore by diverting operating surplus generated by other units in order to sustain operations of BW. The Board of BSCL directed to discontinue such diversion of revenue generated by other units and advised Burnpur Works to achieve at least breakeven level of production, so that they are able to survive on "stand alone basis" failing which the decision of closure is to be pursued.

(c) The Board of Directors of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd., the holding company of BSCL, has not yet deliberated upon the recommendations of the Board of BSCL and the Government has not received the recommendation of BBUNL regarding future of BSCL. However, the Government have extended a Bank Guarantee for Rs. 55.50 crore without payment of Guarantee Fee to BSCL for working capital till 31.3.2006.

Autonomy to PSUs

1430. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Arjun Sengupta panel has recommended for giving more autonomy for PSUs;

(b) whether the panel has suggested that PSUs should not be subject to Public Interest Litigations and Parliament questions and that a statutory audit is sufficient for PSUs and their books need not be audited by CAG;

(c) whether necessary amendments under Article 12 of the Constitution have been finalized; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The ad-hoc Group of Experts (AGE) headed by Dr. Arjun Sengupta has made various recommendations on empowerment of Central Public Sector Enterprises. The Government has accepted some of the